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The Official magazine of the
South Melbourne Hellas Soccer Club Ltd.

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ROUND 19 BOB JANE STADIUM

SOUTH MELBOURNE
v
WOLLONGONG CITY

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BRISBANE VICTORY GIVES LAKERS STRENGTH

South Melbourne's inspiring 3-2 away win over second-placed Brisbane Strikers last week was the perfect tonic for a club that had experienced a trying week.

The well-documented unfortunate episodes that followed the Adelaide City game dominated the news but the win at Suncorp Stadium has given South the focus it needed.

The club has now regained its play-off position, and with eight rounds to go, the target is now nothing but success in the finals.

A possible hurdle in that target is Wollongong City, who have similar aspirations.

The Wolves have had a poor record against South Melbourne away from home, but have almost always been a difficult opponent.

The exception seemed to be last season when the Lakers hammered six past a stunned Wollongong. Striker Ivan Kelic was the catalyst, netting a haul of four goals.

The Wolves are a more competitive outfit this time round and are sure to play their part in what should be a pulsating affair.

Ivan Kelic scored four against Wollongong last season. An encore effort would be welcome tonight.

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JASE THE ACE

Elegant South Melbourne midfielder Jason Polak made a welcome return to Lakeside this season.

The experienced 29-year-old returned to South Melbourne after a successful year with Brisbane Strikers but has had an unsettled season thus far.

A recent calf injury sustained in the game against the Gippsland Falcons knocked him out of first team contention and saw him miss the home game against Adelaide City.

Polak returned to the squad last week in the trip to Brisbane where he made a substitute appearance. On entering the field, he received a hostile reception from the local fans who admired his ability last season.

Polak's stay with the Strikers was a difficult one as he was based in Melbourne and while Polak enjoyed playing in Brisbane, returning to South Melbourne was an easy choice.

They say that romance doesn't work out the second time around but Polak is keen to make sure his second stint at South Melbourne is a success.

"I think if you work hard enough at it the second time around you can make it work better," Polak said.

"There are cases where it doesn't work like that but that's what I'm trying to do at South Melbourne."

"It wasn't hard at all coming back to South Melbourne. I had to leave before I was ready to leave."

Polak chases down Perth's Scott Miller.

Polak joined South Melbourne under Jim Pyrgolios, who paid big money to recruit the midfielder from the Newcastle Breakers.

According to Polak, the current South Melbourne squad is just as good as the star-studded side South had three years ago.

"We had a very strong squad back then and we do this year too."

"Back then you had to work really hard to stay in the first eleven and it's just the same now."

Polak has made 16 appearances this season for the Lakers, but five were off the bench. That has been highly indicative of the strength in the Lakers squad when players like Polak, Warren Spink, Vaughan Coveny and the army of Young Socceroos can be used on the bench.

For Polak, however, playing in every game towards the finals is extremely important as he tries to claim another A League championship (Polak was a winner with Sydney Olympic in 1990).

Polak also tasted success during his time in Greece where he joined glamour club Panathinaikos after starring for Olympic.

Panathinaikos won a championship in the time Polak was at the club and thus the experience he gained there has been a helpful addition to his soccer pedigree.

"I enjoyed living there because people liked to enjoy themselves," Polak said.

"The soccer was a good experience and a real eye-opener for a 21-year-old."

The sweet taste of success hasn't since been tasted by Polak but like most of the Lakers, he's quietly confident that this will be the year the Lakers relive championship glory.

Polak with fellow Socceroo, Warren Spink, plot how best to use this set piece.

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AUSSIE GIRLS TO CLASH WITH ATLANTA GOLD-MEDALLISTS

The Australian women's soccer team host Olympic champions, the USA, in a prelude to tonight's Ericsson Cup clash between South Melbourne and Wollongong.

The Matildas, ranked 10th in the world, face a daunting task against the world's best in tonight's game, the first of the three-game Ram Cup.

Australia is co-coached by former internationals Greg Brown and Jeff Olver who have taken over after ex-coach Tom Sermanni moved to Japan with Eddie Thomson's Sanfrece Hiroshima.

The Matilda's have never beaten the USA but came close in pre-Atlanta games, twice losing 2-1 to the Americans.

South Melbourne is proud to host tonight's international and the Matildas are just as happy to be playing in front of a big Laker crowd.

Nicky Leitch, Development Officer of the VWSA, said the evening's game will give the Matilda's the chance to showcase their talents to the South Melbourne fans.

"We're hoping the South Melbourne supporters will come early and offer a little bit of support for their country," Leitch said.

"We want to show the standard of women's soccer is quite high."

"It's quite a compliment to have the Americans here because they are Olympic champions and feel that Australia are good enough to compete against."

The series continues on Sunday March 2 at the Carrington Oval in Bathurst and concludes on Wednesday March 5 at Bruce Stadium in Canberra.

AUSTRALIAN SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Belinda Kitching (QLD), Debra Carlin (NNSW)

Defenders: Sonia Gegenhuber (QLD), Kristyn Swaffer (SA), Bridgette Starr (NNSW), Sharon Black (SA), Cheryl Salisbury (J LEAGUE), Louisa Bisby (VIC), Joanne Powell (NNSW)

Midfielders: Lisa Casagrande (NNSW), Shelley Youman (NNSW), Joanne Peters (NSW), Kim Revell (QLD), Amy Wilson (ACT), Amy Taylor (ACT), Lizzy Claydon (WA)

Forwards: Sunni Hughes (J LEAGUE), Katrina Boyd (NSW), Lisa Dunne (QLD)

USA SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Briana Scurry, Tracy Noonan

Defenders: Brandi Chastain, Thory Staples, Lorrie Fair

Midfielders: Tiffany Roberts, Tammy Pearman, Julie Foudy, Tisha Venturini, Justi Baumgardt, Kristine Lilly, Mia Hamm, Christie Pearce

Forwards: Tiffeny Milbrett, Debbie Keller, Danielle Fotopoulos, Cindy Parlow, Robin Confer

Coach: Tony Di Chicco

Matildas co-coach, Jeff Olver.

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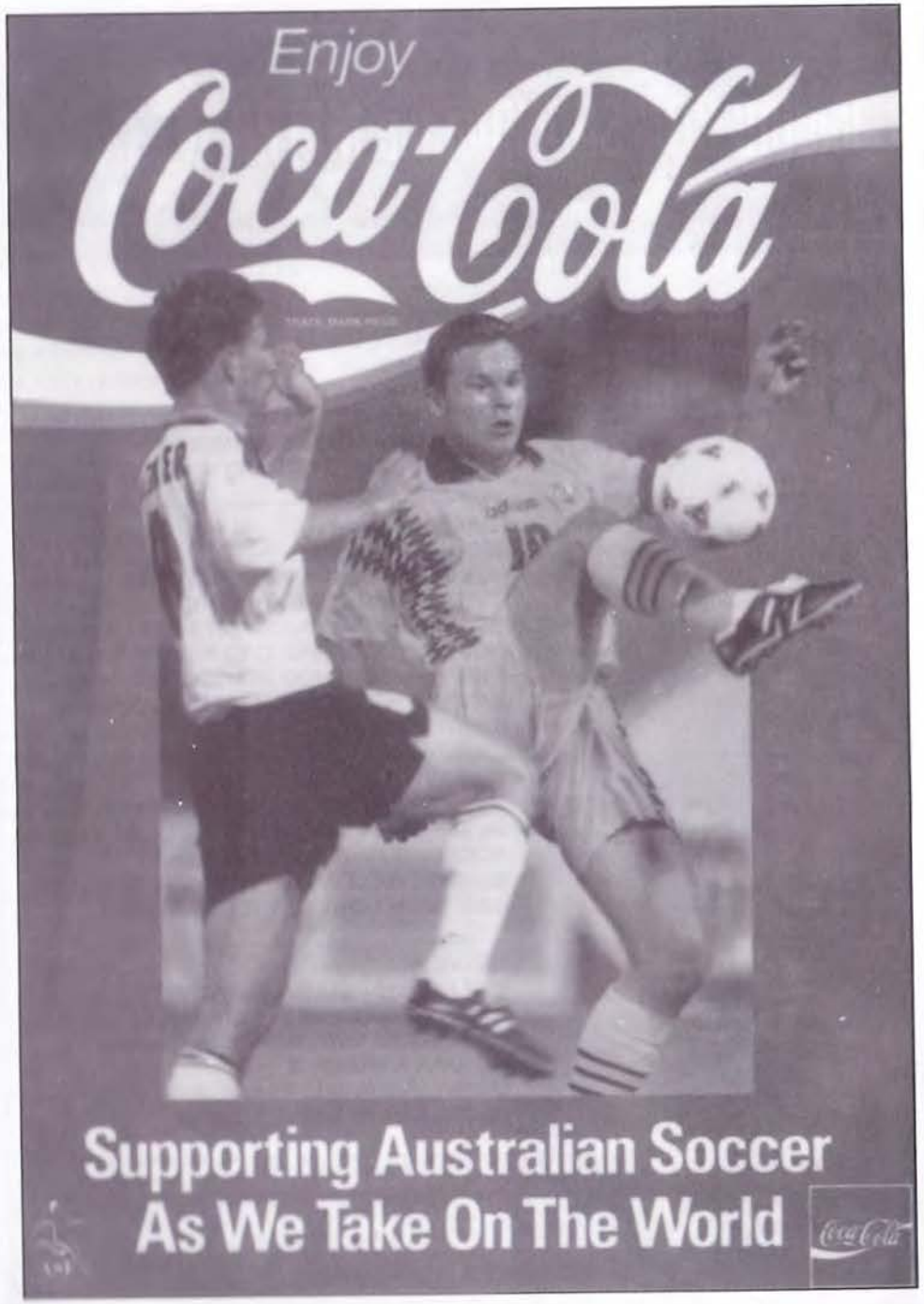

ERICSSON CUP RESULTS

At Breakers Stadium
Newcastle Breakers 1 (Halpin 45') Wollongong City 0
At Bruce Stadium
Canberra Cosmos 4 (Kelly 9', Armstrong 50', Dee 66', Markovski 75')
Perth Glory 1 (Despotovski 42')
At Falcons Park
Gippsland Falcons 1 (Duric 51') UTS Olympic 1 (Tome 56')
At Suncorp Stadium
Brisbane Strikers 2 (Orlic og 71', Wright 76') South Melbourne 3 (Damianos 6', Blatsis 9', Trimboli pen 94')
At Victoria Park
Collingwood Warriors 3 (Taliadoros 32', 54', Tapai 45') West Adelaide 0
At Parramatta Stadium
Sydney United 1 (Zdrilic 18') Marconi Fairfield 3 (Babic 16', Harper 68', 80')
At Hindmarsh Stadium
Adelaide City 1 (Hassell 35') Melbourne Knights 0

TABLE:	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
SYDNEY UNITED	18	12	3	3	47	24	39
BRISBANE STRIKERS	18	10	2	6	38	27	32
ADELAIDE CITY	18	8	7	3	23	13	31
MARCONI FAIRFIELD	18	9	3	6	28	23	30
SOUTH MELBOURNE	18	8	4	6	23	17	28
PERTH GLORY	18	8	3	7	35	30	27
West Adelaide	18	8	2	8	27	32	26
Wollongong City	18	6	7	5	25	26	25
Newcastle Breakers	19	5	8	6	30	30	23
UTS Olympic	18	6	5	7	25	29	23
Melbourne Knights	18	5	5	8	21	22	20
Collingwood Warriors	18	4	7	7	18	31	19
Gippsland Falcons	18	3	5	10	17	32	14
Canberra Cosmos	19	2	5	12	20	41	11

OTHER GAMES THIS WEEK - ROUND 19

Marconi Fairfield v Adelaide City
UTS Olympic v Sydney United
West Adelaide v Gippsland Falcons
Melbourne Knights v Brisbane Strikers
Perth Glory v Collingwood Warriors

NEXT WEEK - ROUND 20

Friday March 7		
Newcastle Breakers v South Melbourne	Breakers Stadium	7:30pm
Wollongong City v Melbourne Knights	Brandon Park	7:30pm
Saturday March 8		
Brisbane Strikers v Marconi Fairfield	Suncorp Stadium	7:00pm
Gippsland Falcons v Perth Glory	Falcons Park	7:30pm
Sunday March 9		
Adelaide City v UTS Olympic	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm
Collingwood Warriors v Canberra Cosmos	Victoria Park	6:30pm
Sydney United v West Adelaide	Syd Utd S.C.	6:30pm

TOP GOALSCORERS

15: David Zdrilic (Pumas)
12: Ante Milicic (Pumas)
11: Bobby Despotovski (Glory)

NEXT HOME GAME

v Marconi Fairfield, Round 22, Sunday March 23, 1997.

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STATISTICS

One On One

South Melbourne
Won 12
Scored 39

Wollongong City
Won 6
Scored 24
Drawn 8

At South Melbourne

South Melbourne
Won 8
Scored 21

Wollongong City
Won 1
Scored 4
Drawn 3

SOUTH MELBOURNE

COACH: Angie Postecoglou
NICKNAME: Lakers

CHAMPIONSHIPS: 2 (1984, 1990/91)
LEAGUE CUPS: 2 (1989/90, 1995/96)

	1996 APPS	SUBS	GOALS
1 Michael Petkovic	18	0	0
2 Con Anthopoulos	1	1	0
3 Nick Orlic	17	0	4
4 Alex Kuzmanovic	17	0	0
5 Con Blatsis	12	0	1
6 Jason Polak	11	5	0
7 Steve Panopoulos	12	4	1
8 Vaughan Coveny	15	3	2
9 Paul Trimboli	17	0	5
10 Warren Spink	7	8	4
11 Steve Iosifidis	14	1	0
12 Bill Damianos	6	5	1
13 David Clarkson	15	3	0
14 Mike Peterson	0	3	0
15 Tansell Baser	0	0	0
17 Daniel Allsopp	0	5	1
18 Michael Curcija	3	5	1
19 Robert Liparoti	1	0	0
23 Ivan Kelic	13	1	3
24 George Goutzioulis	1	1	0
25 Fausto De Amicis	18	0	0

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Con Blatsis got his first goal of the season last week.

WOLLONGONG CITY

COACH: Nick Theodorakopoulos
NICKNAME: Wolves

CHAMPIONSHIPS: 0
LEAGUE CUPS: 0

	Goals		Goals
1 Brett Hughes		12 Neil Harlock	
2 Alvin Ceccoli		13 Nick Joseski	
3 Gary Van Egmond		14 Richard Lloyd	
4 Stephen Laybutt		15 Billy Gjakovski	
5 Martin Bourke		16 Michael Kariamis	
6 Matthew Horsley (C)		17 Antony Surjan	
7 Sonny Sevin		18 Scott Chipperfield	
8 Ljupco Naumovski		19 Jason Connolly	
9 Sasho Dimoski		21 Manis Lamond	
10 Michael Reda		22 Colin Luff	
11 Tony Perinich		30 Adam Brodbeck	

South fans will hope to do plenty of celebrating tonight.

MBF

STATISTICS

Record Sccres

South Melbourne 6
Wollongong City 0,
at Bob Jane Stadium,
1995-96

Wollongong City 4
South Melbourne 0,
at Brandon Park,
1988

Last Time They Met

Wollongong City 1 (Harlock)
South Melbourne 1 (Trimboli),
Round 5, 1996/97,
at Brandon Park.

Last Time At Bob Jane Stadium

South Melbourne 6
Wollongong City 0
(record score),
Round 16,
1995-96

EPIC ENCOUNTERS

WOLLONGONG CITY 1 (Lloyd)

SOUTH MELBOURNE 4 (Michalakopoulos 2, Trimboli, Wright)

South Melbourne were simply awesome in their devastating 6-0 annihilation of Wollongong last season but an evenly emphatic win was the 4-1 victory at Brandon Park in 1990-91.

That season saw South take out the championship and this win, in the early part of the season, indicated that Ferenc Puskas' side would be strong title challengers.

The trip to the steel city was made without the regular 'wingers' in Peter Tsolakis and Kimon Taliadoros, but in their places shone two rising young stars.

Michael Michalakopoulos and Con Boutsianis turned heads in this impressive performance. Michalakopoulos, who now plays for Altona Magic in the Victorian Premier League, was making his first full appearance for South Melbourne.

And he had good reason to celebrate when on four minutes he capitalised on a mistake in the Wollongong goal to easily score.

South Melbourne settled 1-0 up at the break, but quickly doubled the scoreline after half-time when Paul Trimboli easily nudged the ball over the line.

A quick Wolves response from the towering Richard Lloyd gave them a lifeline which was just as quickly knocked from their grasp when Danny Wright got a richly deserved goal after blistering lead-up work from Boutsianis.

South Melbourne saved the best for last however, with Michalakopoulos claiming his second for the game.

After receiving the ball on the halfway line, Michalakopoulos exchanged passes with Trimboli before angling a precise shot for South's final goal.

The victory was all the more awesome as South travelled to arguably the league's best defensive side, with a depleted attack.

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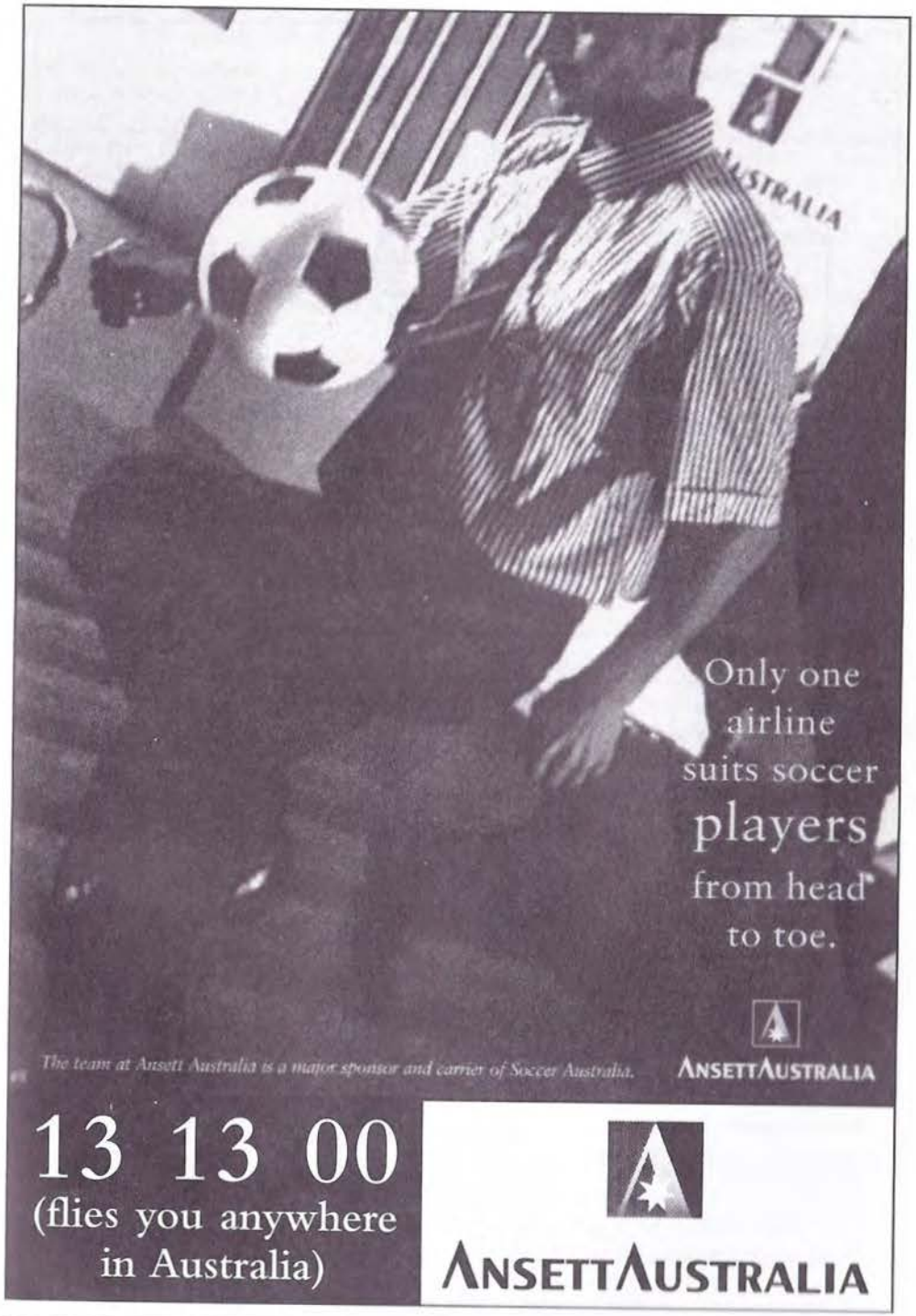

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REFEREES LAKE PENALTY SHY

Paul Trimboli's successful last-gasp penalty at Brisbane last week typified the calmness of South Melbourne's captain.

It was however, South Melbourne's first penalty of the season, and while many Lakers would argue they've deserved more this season, Mark Shield's decision was welcome.

Brisbane have little reason to complain when it comes to spot kicks. The Strikers have scored six goals from the spot, almost one third of all penalties scored this season.

And while the Strikers have enjoyed that luxury, five Ericsson Cup clubs have not opened their account from penalty kicks.

Sydney United's two penalties, both converted by Tony Popovic, were in the 2-1 derby win over UTS Olympic.

The penalty king honour is currently shared by Brisbane's Alan Hunter and the Cosmos' Norman Kelly, who have both scored three times from 12 yards this season.

And if you thought that Brisbane's penalties have been awarded because of pressure from the crowd, three of the six were awarded away from home.

Keen Lakers fans will remember one of those was in Round 4 at the Bob Jane Stadium and was scored by Alan Hunter.

Penalties Scored This Season (Includes Round 18)

6: Brisbane Strikers

3: Newcastle Breakers, Canberra Cosmos

2: Sydney United, West Adelaide

1: Adelaide City, Gippsland Falcons, Melbourne Knights, South Melbourne

0: Collingwood Warriors, Marconi Fairfield, Perth Glory, UTS Olympic, Wollongong City

FUN STUFF (Answers on Page 30)

MATCH ME

The following players have only made substitute appearances in the Ericsson Cup this season. Match them with their clubs:

Travis Dodd	* *	Collingwood Warriors
Michael Kariamis	* *	Adelaide City Zebras
Peter Di Iorio	* *	Sydney United Pumas
Ante Deak	* *	South Melbourne Lakers
Peter Vukmirovic	* *	Melbourne Knights
Daniel Allsopp	* *	Perth Glory
Richard Plesa	* *	Wollongong City Wolves

UNSCRAMBLER

Unscramble the following to find the names of players who scored in Round One of the Ericsson Cup:

ARVAKTJNSOI .....

MSTAHO .....

CZIRO .....

HOCEVNPR .....

OLERYSH .....

WHO AM I?

We are two strikers who this season have scored four goals in a single game.

We Are .....

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FOCUS ON THE OPPONENTS

WOLLONGONG CITY

Wollongong City began the season in highly impressive fashion and at the mid-season stage, had enjoyed a commanding position among the leaders of the A League.

A recent slide, however, has seen the Wolves surrender that spot among the league's top clubs.

Nick Theodorakopoulos' side have picked up just one point in their last four games and have failed to score in their last three.

Last week, they lost 1-0 away to Newcastle and before that they collapsed at home to Brisbane, 4-0.

On current form, the Wolves should find it hard to topple the Lakers, but Theodorakopoulos' well-moulded side is better than their recent form suggests.

Captain, Matthew Horsley, is one of the league's best players and with players like Mike Reda, Sonny Sevin and Anthony Surjan the wolves have a formidable midfield.

In defence, Alvin Ceccoli has performed above expectations this season, while Gary Van Egmond and Richard Lloyd provide the experience.

In attack, newly recruited Manis Lamond has made a slow start while the promising Nick Joseski and Tony Perinich haven't been regular scorers.

Joseski deserves credit for getting five goals for Wollongong this season but the Wolves have looked light in attack.

Between the goals, experienced campaigner Brett Hughes has had a disrupted season, giving the chance to young shot-stopper Adam Brodbeck to play first team soccer.

Brodbeck has made five appearances for Wollongong this season, including last week when he was beaten by a Troy Halpin strike.

Earlier in the season, South Melbourne and Wollongong played out a 1-1 draw at Brandon Park.

The Lakers took the lead through a Paul Trimboli header before a questionable red-card to Nick Orlic gave Wollongong the chance to come back in the game.

A second-half goal by Kiwi Neil Harlock, his first of the season, salvaged a point for Wollongong.

The Lakers will be seeking revenge today knowing that a win over Wollongong would have been a fairer result when they played in Round 5.

Wollongong first choice goalkeeper Brett Hughes has had his season disrupted by injury.

WOLVES TO WATCH

ALVIN CECCOLI

The unheralded Ceccoli has made a big impression at Brandon Park this season.

A cultured defender, Ceccoli has justified the faith placed in him by Wollongong supremo, Nick Theodorakopoulos.

Apart from being a key defender, Ceccoli can contribute to Wollongong's attack, something he did successfully when he scored against Gippsland in Round 14.

MATTHEW HORSLEY

Horsley is arguably the league's most underrated player.

A brilliant example of the 'local boy made good' he has become the darling of the Wollongong fans since joining in 1989.

Horsley is a hard-working midfielder who has the ability to move on to better things.

He shares the honour of being Wollongong's top scorer with Nick Joseski, both having netted five goals this season.

Four of those five Horsley goals were scored in the opening three rounds of the season.

NEIL HARLOCK

Recruited from New Zealand, Harlock has started every game for Wollongong this season.

That has been a fine feat for the former Waitakere City and North Shore United midfielder.

Harlock has represented New Zealand at Under 20, Olympic and senior levels and is still only 21 years of age.

With plenty of development left in him, Harlock is a most exciting prospect.

Wolves captain Matthew Horsley clashes with Bill Damianos at Lakeside last season.

MICHAEL REDA

Despite being only 24 years of age, Reda is often seen as a league veteran. That can be attributed to the fact that this is Reda's fourth a League club.

Reda's career in the Australian top flight began with Parramatta Eagles before Zoran Matic took him to Adelaide City in a highly publicised move.

Reda failed to fire at Adelaide and he moved to Gippsland before returning to his home state to team up with the Wolves.

Reda is a pacy attacking midfielder who plays with a great deal of flair.

MANIS LAMOND

The enigmatic forward is back at A League level after a stint in Malaysia.

Lamond was a long-time Sydney United player, but has been given a chance to continue playing top-level soccer with the Wolves.

Lamond is a talented striker who, on his day, is potentially one of the league's most lethal players.

Quit ® MAKE THE MOVE

TWENTY QUESTIONS WITH STEVE IOSIFIDIS

1) WHAT TYPE OF PICTURES ARE HANGING ON THE WALLS OF YOUR BEDROOM?
A shot of Ruud Gullit, and one of Claudia Schiffer.

2) WHAT TYPE OF CLOTHES DO YOU FEEL HAPPIEST IN?
Bum wear - tracksuit or t-shirt.

3) WHAT DO YOU HATE ABOUT YOURSELF?
No hairstyle.

4) IF YOU COULD WATCH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER ANYWHERE OTHER THAN SOUTH MELBOURNE, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
There's no other place but South Melbourne.

5) WHICH GROUP OF SPORTSPEOPLE DO YOU MOST ADMIRE FOR THEIR COURAGE AND SKILL?
Ironmen.

6) WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CRIED?
When I got hit in the mid-region in the Premier League semi-final.

7) IF YOU HAD TO COOK A MEAL TO IMPRESS SOMEONE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
I'd rather order take away - perhaps dial a pizza.

8) WHAT WAS THE LAST PARTY YOU WENT TO?
Helen's 21st birthday.

9) WHAT IS YOUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE GOAL?
Marco Van Basten - 1988 European Championship Final for Holland.

10) WHAT IS THE WORST REFEREEING DECISION YOU'VE SEEN ON A SOCCER FIELD?
Nick Orlic's send-off against Wollongong.

11) WHO IS A PERSON YOU'VE BEEN TOLD YOU LOOK LIKE?
Vaughan Coveny, now that he's shaved his head.

12) WHAT IS LIKELY TO BE YOUR NEXT CAR?
The old man's EB.

13) IF YOU WERE TO GO ON A HOLIDAY, WHAT WOULD BE THE FIRST THING YOU'D TAKE ALONG WITH YOU?
The South Melbourne boys.

14) WHICH SONG ARE YOU WORD-PERFECT ON?
Thunderstruck - AC/DC.

15) WHO'LL WIN THE PREMIERSHIP IN ENGLAND THIS SEASON?
Liverpool.

16) WHICH A LEAGUE TEAM HAS THE WORST STRIP?
Newcastle's home strip.

17) WHO DO YOU SUPPORT IN ENGLAND?
Tottenham Hotspur.

18) WHAT IS THE LAST SPORTING EVENT YOU PAID TO SEE?
Tennis - Australian Open.

19) WHICH SOUTH MELBOURNE PLAYER DID YOU IDOLISE AS A YOUNGSTER?
Paul Trimboli.

20) IF MICHAEL PETKOVIC GOT SENT OFF, WHICH LAKER WOULD BE BEST TO GO GOALKEEPER?
A toss-up between Tansell Baser and George Goutzioulis.

FUN STUFF (From Page 27)

MATCH ME: Dodd (Zebras); Kariamis (Wolves); Di Iorio (Warriors); Deak (Knights); Vukmirovic (Glory); Allsopp (Lakers); Plesa (Pumas)

UNSCRAMBLER: Trajanovski; Thomas; Zoric; Perinovic; Horsley

WHO ARE WE? David Zdrilic and Jason Bennett.

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